

## The Christmas Story

**Genesis 3:14–16; Psalm 22:14–18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6–7; Gal. 4:1–6**

Find a quiet place, alone and apart from distractions. Be comfortably alert, still, and at peace. Say the Lord's Prayer. Sing or cant the Jesus Prayer. Pray for family, friends, neighbors, and yourself. Slowly and carefully read the passage of Scripture.

1. Addressing the Serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve, God states, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel."
2. The woman's offspring, as the historic drama in Scripture makes plain, is Mary's son Jesus, who defeats the serpent, while the serpent is only able to do minor or temporary damage.
3. Then, in Psalm 22, is a portrayal of the damage the serpent does, all under the authority of the Creator. The Psalmist, David, depicts a man dying on a cross hundreds of years before the invention of this horrible instrument of execution.
4. Isaiah the prophet speaks of a virgin giving birth to "Immanuel" which means "God with us." He calls this virgin-born son "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (If you look carefully, you will see the Trinity.)
5. Further along in Isaiah we find this Immanuel as the suffering servant of Israel. The prophet speaks of a person despised and rejected, who is "wounded for our iniquities" and upon whom is laid all our sin.
6. Isaiah goes on to say that this despised one's dying is an "offering for sin," yet his days will be prolonged, even that "the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand." This is clearly about Jesus' resurrection (see Isaiah 53).
7. In the first century CE a former Jewish Rabbi, the Apostle Paul, in writing to a Gentile audience, sums up the ultimate intention of God in this manner: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4–5).

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Lighting of the Angels' Candle

And at once with the angels there was a great throng of heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace for those he favors."

### Reading of Luke 1:26–31, 2:10–11

The Gloria Patri

**Christmas Hymn # 270 Joy to the World!**

### Call to Worship:

The Song of Mary: Luke 1:46–55

### Morning Prayer — Prayers of the Church — Silent Prayer

#### Collect of the Day:

STIR UP YOUR POWER, OH LORD, AND BE HERE WITH US. TAKE AWAY THE HINDRANCE OF OUR SINS AND MAKE US READY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF YOUR BIRTH, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE YOU IN JOY AND SERVE YOU ALWAYS; FOR YOU LIVE AND REIGN WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

### We Confess our Faith — The Apostle's Creed

#### Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 9:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25; John 3:1–8; Galatians 3:1–9

#### Memory Verse:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

**Reflection:** This is the Christmas Story.

**Choruses:** “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” and “I’d Rather Have Jesus” and solo: “Joseph’s Song”

**Offertory Theme:** Better to give than receive.

### Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

#### Ways to give when not present at service:

- 1) Go to the “Giving” page of our website: [milleravenuechurch.org/giving](http://milleravenuechurch.org/giving) and click on the “Donate” button, then follow the link.
- 2) Download the GivePlus+ app on your smartphone, then input Miller Avenue Church and follow the instructions.
- 3) Text a dollar amount (e.g., \$25) to 844-918-0231, then follow the link.
- 4) Mail a check to Miller Avenue Church, 285 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941

### The Doxology

**Announcements:** Birthdays, etc. Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m. and reception afterwards; no big Christmas dinner, just a small reception the 26<sup>th</sup> after service.

**Bible Exposition—**Galatians 3:1–9 “O Foolish Galatians!” (Katie)

**Christmas Hymn:** # 244 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Sermon—**The Birth of Jesus — Matthew 1:18–25 (Kent)

Notes:

**Benediction Hymn:** #271 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (4v)

**Aaronic Benediction** (Numbers 6:24–26):

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Shalom. Amen.

**Visit our church website: [www.milleravenuechurch.org](http://www.milleravenuechurch.org):**  
TV Shows, Worship Service Videos, Audio Sermons, Essays, Pastor’s Blog, Community Blog, Newsletters, Bulletins, Photo Gallery, Giving Portal, and more!

Also visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/miller.avenue.church.mill.valley>

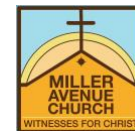
### Did you know?

Our “Miller Avenue Church” video-on-demand apps are now on:  
Your iPhone (at the App Store) or Android phone (at the Play Store) plus

Roku  
Apple TV  
Fire TV  
Google TV  
YouTube  
Cross.TV

Our Bible Study podcasts are also on:  
Apple podcasts, Amazon music/audible, Gaana, YouTube Music, iHeartRadio, Radio.com mobile app, and Spotify (look for “Miller Avenue Church”)

Questions? ask [katie@milleravenuechurch.org](mailto:katie@milleravenuechurch.org)



**Ministry Associates**



- Kent Philpott** - Senior Pastor
- Vernon Philpott** - Associate Pastor
- Katie Philpott** - Associate Pastor
- Andrea Busta** - Audio-Visual
- Jim Daley** - Associate Pastor
- Doug Fairclough** - Associate Pastor
- Daniel Dover** – Preaching/Handyman
- John Konieczko** – Eastern Pastor

← “Adoration of the Shepherds” by Matthias Stom, c. 1635–1640

WEEKLY SCHEDULE POST-PANDEMIC	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Morning Worship ( <i>in person and via Zoom</i> )	10:30am–12:00pm
Snacks and Collegium ( <i>next to last Sunday</i> )	12:20pm–1:20pm
Evening Worship ( <i>In person &amp; Zoomed starting January.</i> )	5:00pm–6:30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
Bible Study via Zoom (currently on Kent’s book, <i>Christian Basics</i> )	6:00–7:00pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Divorce Recovery Workshop ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	7:00pm–8:30pm
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Donated Food Pickup front of chapel	11:00am–1:00pm

Miller Avenue Baptist Church  
 285 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941  
[www.milleravenuechurch.org](http://www.milleravenuechurch.org) (415) 388-5993

**Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
 our Lord. He was conceived by the power  
 of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin  
 Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead. On the third  
 day He rose again. He ascended into  
 heaven and is seated at the right hand  
 of the Father. He will come again  
 to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
 Christian Church, the communion  
 of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. **Amen**

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**Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread and  
 forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
 those who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
 and the glory forever. **Amen**

**Visitor Information Card**

*✂ Please tear off and fill out card. Place in offering basket or give to church staff member.*

Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Request**

Please pray for:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like someone to contact me to pray over more confidential matters.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to learn more about:**

- Christianity
- The Bible
- Baptism
- Receiving Counseling
- Deliverance Ministry
- Other

**I am interested in helping with:**

- Lunch
- Fix-up and Clean-up
- Donated Food Pick-up
- Worship music
- Worship Audio/Visual
- Television Crewing
- Pastoral Care Team
- Teaching
- Writing and Publishing
- Website Maintenance
- Other

**I am interested in attending:**

- Wed. Eve. Divorce Recovery
- Men's Group (TBD)
- Women's Bible Study (TBD)
- Zoom Class on Christian Basics

Other Comments:

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**Upcoming Preaching Schedule  
Morning Service:**

- Dec. 26:** Sermon= Luke 2:8–21 (Jim)  
Expo= Galatians 3:10–14 (Kent)
- Jan. 2:** Sermon= Luke 2:22–38 (Kent)  
Expo= Galatians 3:15–20 (Daniel)
- Jan. 9:** Sermon= Luke 2:39–52 (Kent)  
Expo= Galatians 3:21–22 (Doug)

**Evening Service:**

Currently watching episodes of “The Chosen” (via Zoom) with discussion. In person and Zoomed worship services resume in January.

Filming schedule at CMCM has resumed most Thursday afternoons. Contact Kent or Katie if you are interested in learning how to crew on our productions.

**TV Program Viewing Schedule**  
(View all on cable channel 26 or 99)

*Why We Are Christians: Saturdays 1:30 and Fridays 7:30 PM*  
*Bible Study: Fridays 8:00 PM*  
*The Rabbi/Shaman/Wiccan and the Pastor: Sundays noon, Mondays 2:30 PM*

*For current daily broadcast schedule, check online at [cmcm.tv/watchcommunity](http://cmcm.tv/watchcommunity)*

**Giving:**

Monthly Budget	\$3,500
Giving for December	\$4,142



# Miller Avenue Baptist Church

*An Evangelical\* and Reformed Congregation*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,  
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
(Romans 1:16)*

## Welcome!

December 19, 2021

\*We claim the original, non-political, Biblical meaning of “Gospel Proclamation”